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To a new generation of Hongkongers

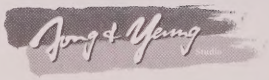
UMBRELLA SKETCHES

A first hand impression of the HK Umbrella Movement 2014

Fong So

With compliments

It's my pleasure to donate this book to the Roberts Library. Hope it will enrich your Hong Kong collection.



Fong & Yeung Studio 2014

Umbrella Sketches
A first hand impression of the HK Umbrella Movement 2014

Fong So

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A Collection of Raw Images

I was visited by an overseas couple on October 28, exactly one month after the day of tear gas, a Hong Kong scene that shocked the world. The man was my university friend. I accompanied them to the occupied zone in Admiralty. After that, I showed them my sketch book to let them have some idea about what had happened before their arrival. I didn't know how they felt at that time – it was just a few hours after their 16-

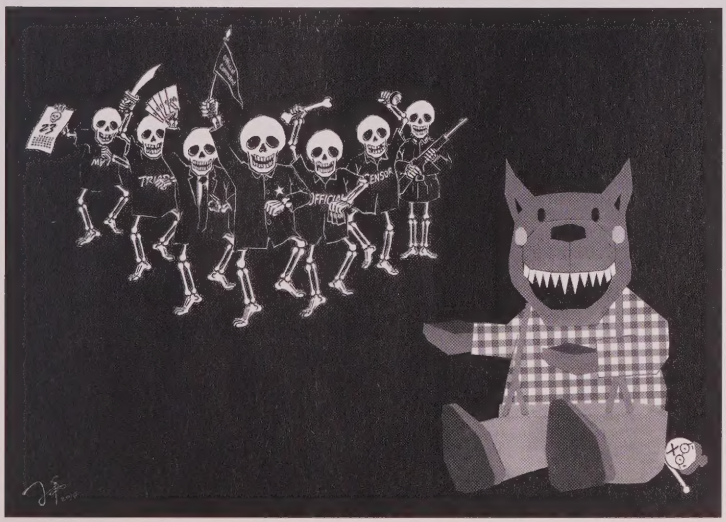


Fig. 1 A cartoon-like artwork: "...Nothing to do with Freedom of Expression."

hour long flight from New York. But I have to say, flipping through the pages of my sketch book, I myself felt the rawness of the images.

Up to that time, I had already had nearly one hundred sketches of the Occupy movement, about 70 in that sketch book. I started them on September 27, a day before the tear gas struck. On that day, I was invited (better said enlisted) by a group of cartoonists, the Comic Daemons, to make cartoons or sketches of people in a shopping district. Their intention was to arouse public awareness, through a day of street art, about the anticipated action of occupying Central, Hong Kong's central business district, to protest the government's deceitful political reform plan. The unannounced target day of the action was October 1, the National Day of the People's Republic of China (PRC), because, as known by all, Hong Kong's political reform was in fact hampered by the PRC regime.

I am not a cartoonist, but I took part in the Comic Daemons' exhibitions in support of their effort to promote democratic reforms in Hong Kong. I do brush-and-ink painting and woodcuts. Joining their cartoon exhibitions, I could only make some cartoon-like pieces for show (Fig. 1, see p1). On the day of street art, I was enlisted to do a two-hour session together with other cartoonists, but I did hardly more than one and half. Unlike the others there, I was relatively slow, completing about a dozen sketches in my own session. All of them were given away on the spot, except two. One of them happened to be the sketch of the cartoonist Zunzi and a common friend of ours (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2 Cartoonist Zunzi (right) and his friend Mak Lok-sun.

In its raw state, the sketch was no more than a few pencil lines. I gave it a retouch with felt-tipped marker later in my studio.

It was the September 27 drawing session on the street that gave me the idea to make sketches for what would happen later on. In that evening, I brought along my sketch book to a rally outside the Government Headquarters in Admiralty. However, I found it was too dark and too crowded for me to work there with my sketch book. And, I must admit, the atmosphere was too tense. So, I only took a few photos that night.

On the next day, I went to the rally in Admiralty again. It was bright enough during daytime, but I could jot just a few pencil lines on several sheets and left everything unfinished. Later, when I was out on Harcourt Road among thousands of protesters, I found most of them were preparing for the possible actions of the police. I was too nervous to take my sketch book out again from my backpack. Soon, the first round of tear gas came. Then came the second and the third round. That night, after several rounds of tear gas, I went back to my studio at midnight to work from the photos. I had a sleepless night, working until noon the next day.

Things went better for me after the day of tear gas. I could visit the occupied zones and do sketches at ease. To save time, I tried to draw on the spot very brief outlines of what caught my attention with a pencil and took a photo for detail. The unfinished part was left to be done later. Within a week, I found my old sketch book, some 120 sheets, two thirds blank before the day of tear gas, almost completely full. I also found I had failed to catch up with what I saw even though I worked non-stop days and nights. I had so little sleep that I was totally exhausted. Thereafter, I resorted to record what I saw with my camera and do sketches at a slower pace.

This book is a collection of nearly all the sketches I did in a period of less than two months, from September 27 to the moment the police were about to clear the occupied zone in Mongkok. They are all raw images of what I had seen before and on the day of tear gas, and later on, in the three occupied zones in Admiralty

(outside the Government Headquarters), Causeway Bay (Hennessy Road) and Mongkok (Nathan Road).

I have thought of turning some sketches into brush-and-ink paintings or woodcuts, but some friends encouraged me to put the raw images together to make a book. Knowing that financial support for this book project was essential, some of them even agreed to order in advance and in bulk. My heartfelt thanks to them.

I have also thought of doing a more complete book of sketches covering later dates, but friends strongly believed that I should not wait: "Do it now! And a supplement later."

By the time I compiled this book, the Occupy movement was still on-going. When I was drafting this introduction, the police were trying, badly, to take control of Mongkok, clearing roads by charging crowds and making forceful arrests.

Of the 139 sketches printed in this volume, about half were done in an A4-size (21 cm x 29 cm) sketch book, the other half on A3-size (30 cm x 42 cm) water-colour paper. The media used were pencil and felt marker (sign pen). Colour was added later with colour pencil - and also crayon when I ran out of yellow (the iconic colour of the HK Umbrella Movement/Revolution).

Having worked as a journalist, I decided that I should make a narrative by telling the five Ws: what, when, where, how and why. Therefore, the sketches are dated by the day the scene was captured, with its location specified. The short captions, I hope, can be strung together and read as a sequential story.

So, here they are, the raw images of what I have seen over the past two months. I would like to dedicate this collection to the new generation of Hongkongers who are fighting for their future.

Fong So
November 28, 2014

The Gathering Crowds

September 27, Government Headquarters (Govt Hqs) at Admiralty.

After boycotting classes to protest the government's deceitful political reform plan, university and secondary school students staged a protest outside the Govt Hqs. On September 26, some students scaled the high fence to “retake” the newly encircled Civic Square previously open to the public. The police made arrests. Thousands of people came in support of the students.

All through the Night

September 27, Govt Hqs.

People rallied outside the Govt Hqs, many staying overnight.

A Barricade

September 27-28, Govt Hqs.

People used police barricades to ward off the police.

Getting Prepared

September 27-28, Govt Hqs.

Hearing that the police might use tear gas, many people equipped themselves with masks and goggles.

Umbrellas under the Sun

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Increasingly more people came the next day. I too, in the afternoon. Many came with umbrellas to shelter themselves from direct sunlight, and, later, from harmful pepper spray and tear gas fumes.

Facing the Police

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Protesters facing the police outside the Govt Hqs.

Safeguard the Students

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Words on the ground: 請愛護學生 (Please safeguard the students.)

Police Facing the Protesters

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Police forming a line opposite the protesting crowds.

Umbrellas, Masks and Goggles

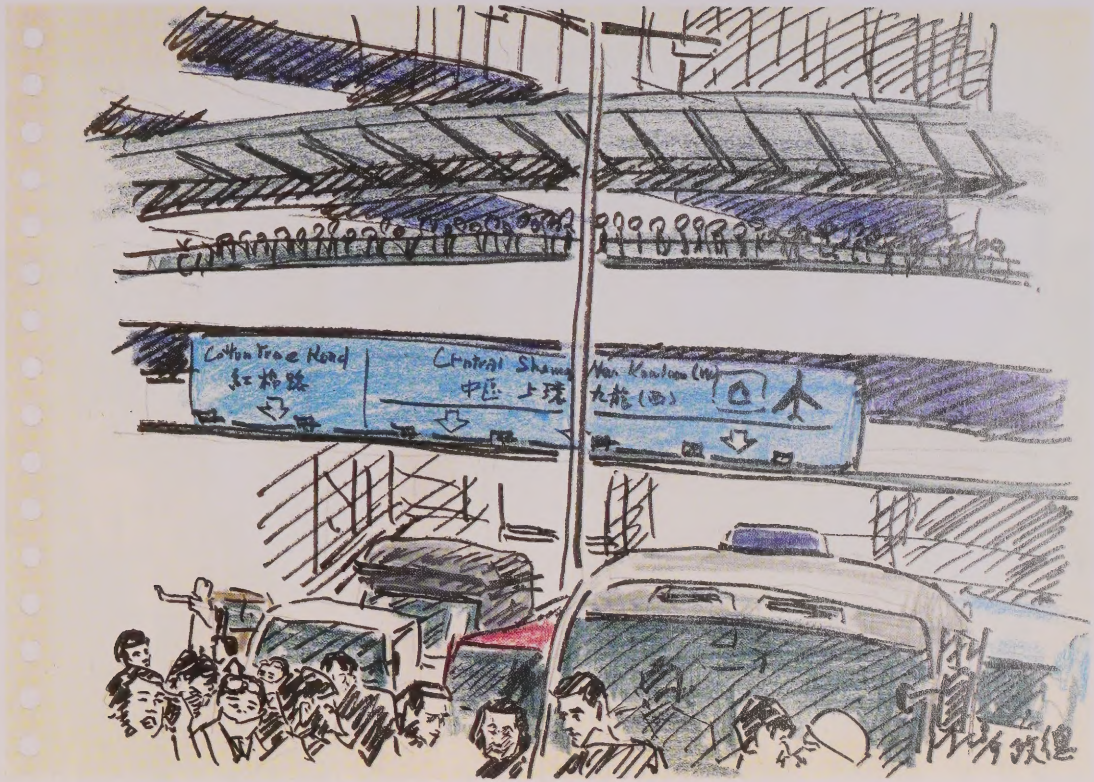
September 28, Govt Hqs.

Joining the protesters, I found the young folk better prepared for possible police actions.

In Riot Gear

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Moving out with protesters to take Harcourt Road, I saw the police there were mostly in riot gear.



Traffic Blocked

September 28, Govt Hqs.

As protesters took the road, traffic was blocked. People let the blocked vehicles go later.

Reinforcement

September 28, Govt Hqs.

As protesters took Harcourt Road, the police made reinforcements. I saw many of them come from the stairs connecting the footbridge next to the entrance of the Govt Hqs.

Under the Footbridge

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Police in riot gear under a footbridge over Harcourt Road.

Police Vehicles

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Some large police vehicles were right behind the police.

Martin Lee

September 28, Govt Hqs.

At a distance of about 20 yards, I saw the former Legislative Councillor Martin Lee emerge from the crowds. Someone handed him a microphone. He was about to say something, but the tear gas came....

Warning in Red

September 28, Govt Hqs.

What came first, the tear gas or the red warning? ... Not sure. (The red warning carries the words in white: Stop Charging Or We Use Force.)

Yellow-Red-Black or Yellow-Black-Red?

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Warnings in different colours. I vaguely remember I saw yellow first, but black appeared to come after the police used tear gas. (Yellow: Police Cordon, Do Not Cross. Black: Warning Tear Smoke.)

Safe Distance?

September 28, Govt Hqs.

People hurried to the other side of the road when a round of tear gas canisters was fired by the police.

Still Red

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Looking back across the road through the tear gas smoke, I saw the police warning in red.

Defiant Protesters

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Defying the police, some protesters stayed where they were in the smoke.

Moving Back

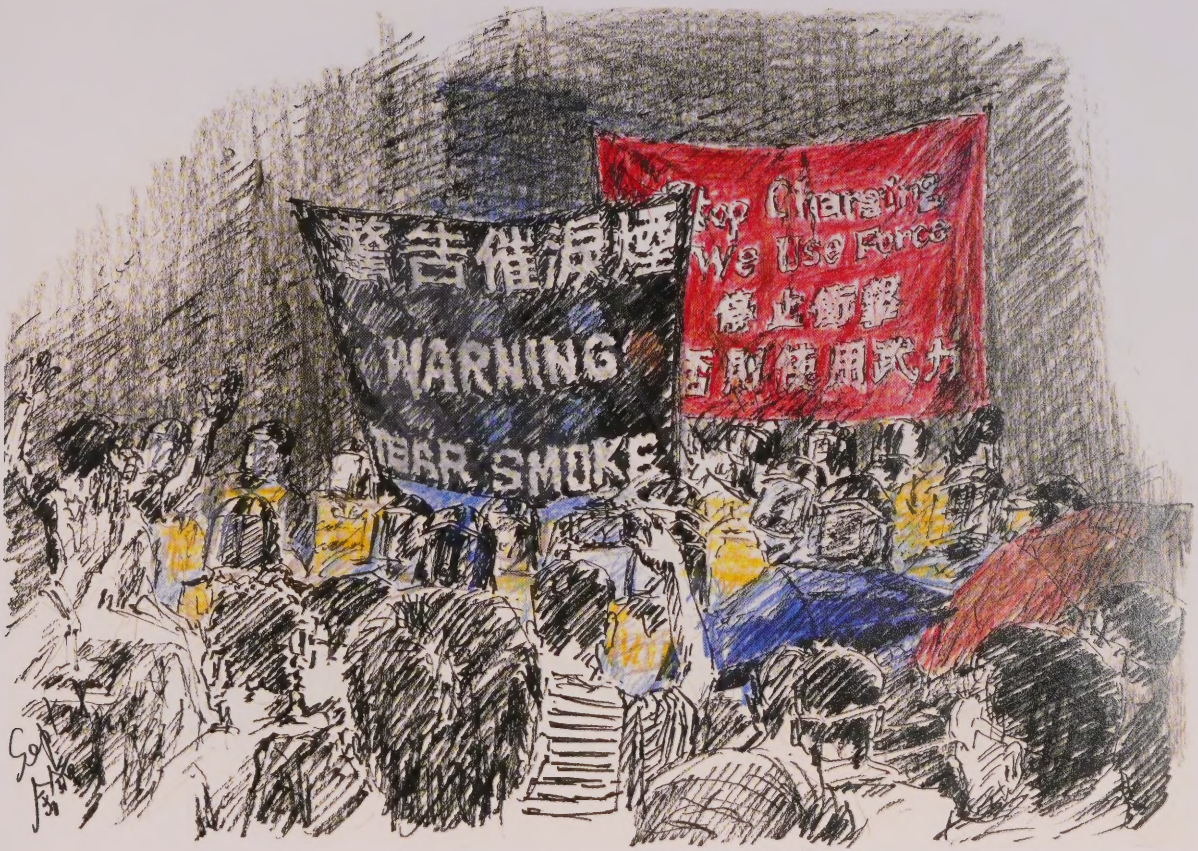
September 28, Govt Hqs.

Within minutes, before the stinging gas had gone, protesters moved back to occupy the road.

An Old Fighter

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Moving back myself, I saw an old man in goggles amongst some young folk.



Another Round

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Then came another round of tear gas, with black and red warnings appearing almost simultaneously. After nightfall, even more people came. The police gave up and left Harcourt Road. People occupied Admiralty that night.

Police in Central

September 28, Govt Hqs.

Leaving Admiralty late at night, I came across a heavy police presence in Central, all in riot gear. People there said that tear gas had also been used.

Causeway Bay Occupied

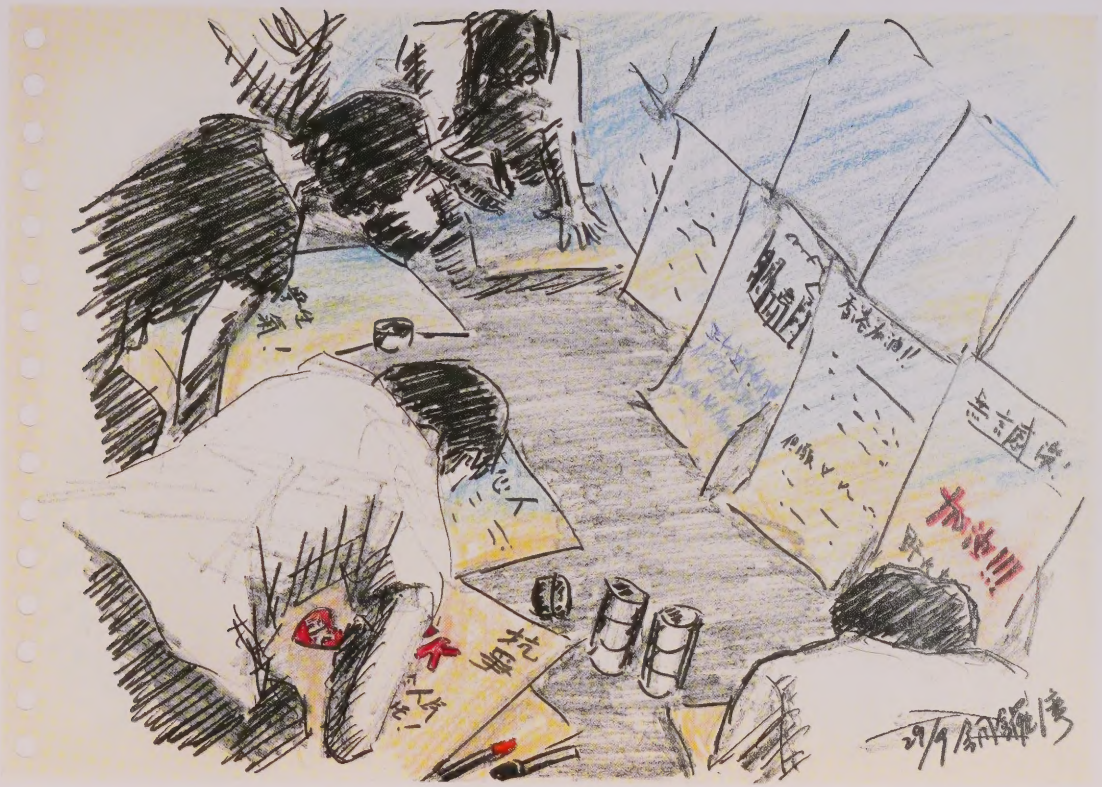
September 29, Causeway Bay.

After Admiralty, two more occupied zones appeared, one in Causeway Bay on Hong Kong Island, and the other one in Mongkok on the Kowloon side.

Strive On!

September 29, Causeway Bay.

Protesters occupying Hennessy Road in Causeway Bay. (香港人，我們一起加油：Hongkongers, let's fuel up together.)



Writing Posters

September 29, Causeway Bay.

Protesters writing posters. (加油：fuel up. 抗爭：fight/struggle.)

A Medical Team

September 29, Causeway Bay.

A team of medical students from the University of Hong Kong.

Young Hongkongers

September 29, Causeway Bay.

Most young protesters identified themselves as “Hongkongers”.

Calling for Disobedience

September 29, Causeway Bay.

Words on the T-shirt: 抗命不認命 (Disobey, don't accept fate.)

Occupy HK

September 29, Causeway Bay.

Words on the banner: 遍地開花，佔領香港 (Flowers bloom everywhere; occupy Hong Kong)

Reverend Chu

September 29, Causeway Bay.

Rev. Chu Yiu-ming, a longtime social activist, came to speak to the crowds in Causeway Bay.

Benny Tai

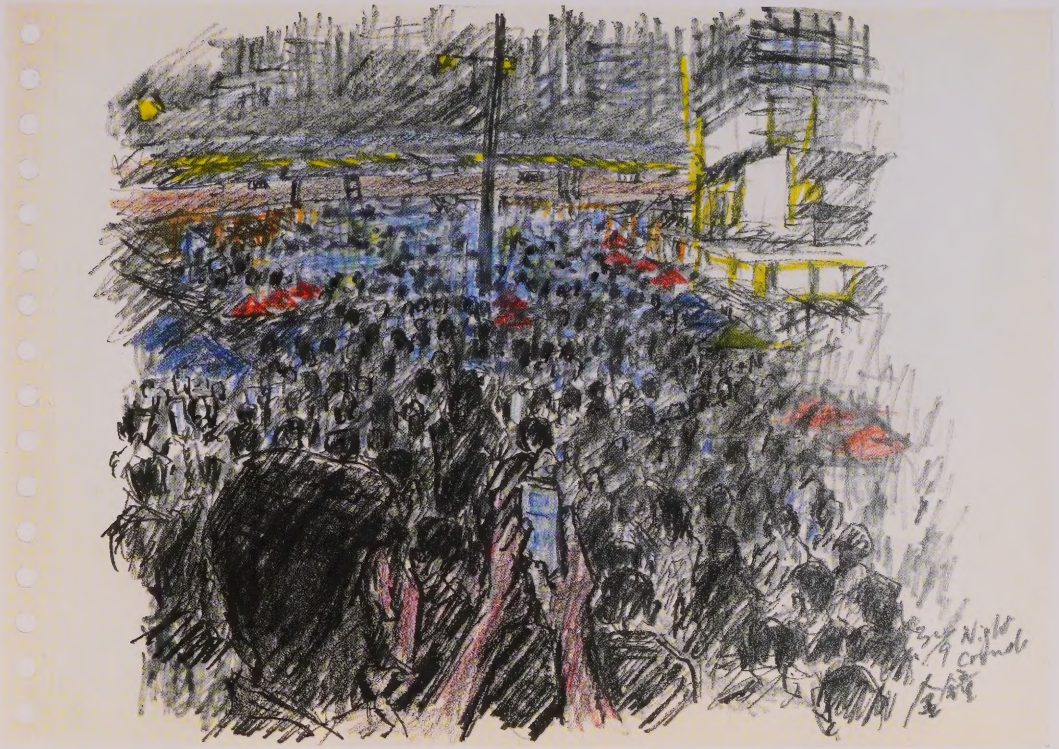
September 29, Causeway Bay.

Benny Tai, a law professor and a prominent advocate of the Occupy movement, spoke after Rev. Chu.

The Road to the Govt Hqs

September 30, Admiralty.

Umbrella became the symbol of the Occupy movement, which was dubbed the "Umbrella Revolution" or "Umbrella Movement" immediately after the day of tear gas (September 28).



Mobiles On

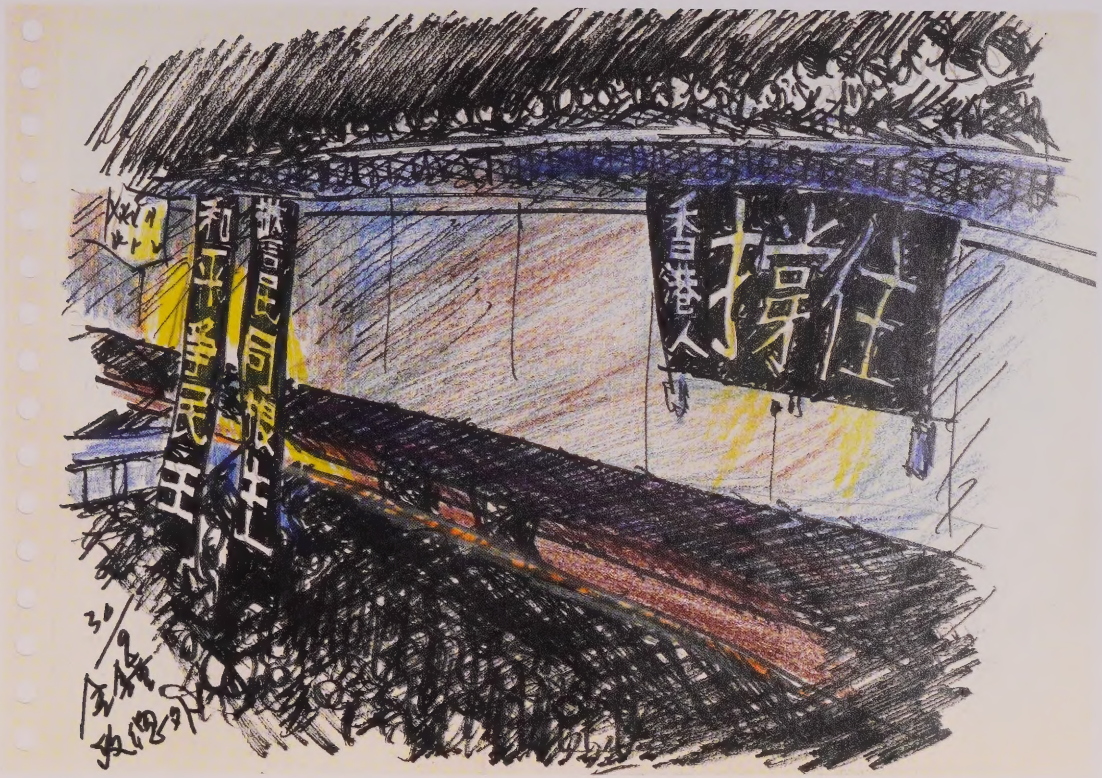
September 30, Admiralty.

At an evening rally outside the Govt Hqs, people turned on their mobile phones to show solidarity.

A Light Show

September 30, Admiralty.

The combined light from thousands of mobile phones make a spectacular scene.



Hold On!

September 30, Admiralty.

Banners were hung from a foot-bridge over Harcourt Road. One of them reads: 香港人撐住 (Hongkongers, hold on.)

A Barricade in Central

September 30, Central.

The occupied zone in Admiralty extended over one mile from Wanchai to Central.

An Iconic Construction

October 1, Admiralty.

I spent nearly the whole day in Admiralty on October 1, a public holiday. On my way there, the first thing came to my attention was this iconic construction.

Camps

October 1, Admiralty.

Camping sites emerged in the occupied zone in Admiralty.

Holiday

October 1, Admiralty.

This day is a public holiday (the National Day of the People's Republic of China). Thousands of people came to the occupied zone to join the protesters.

Father and Daughter

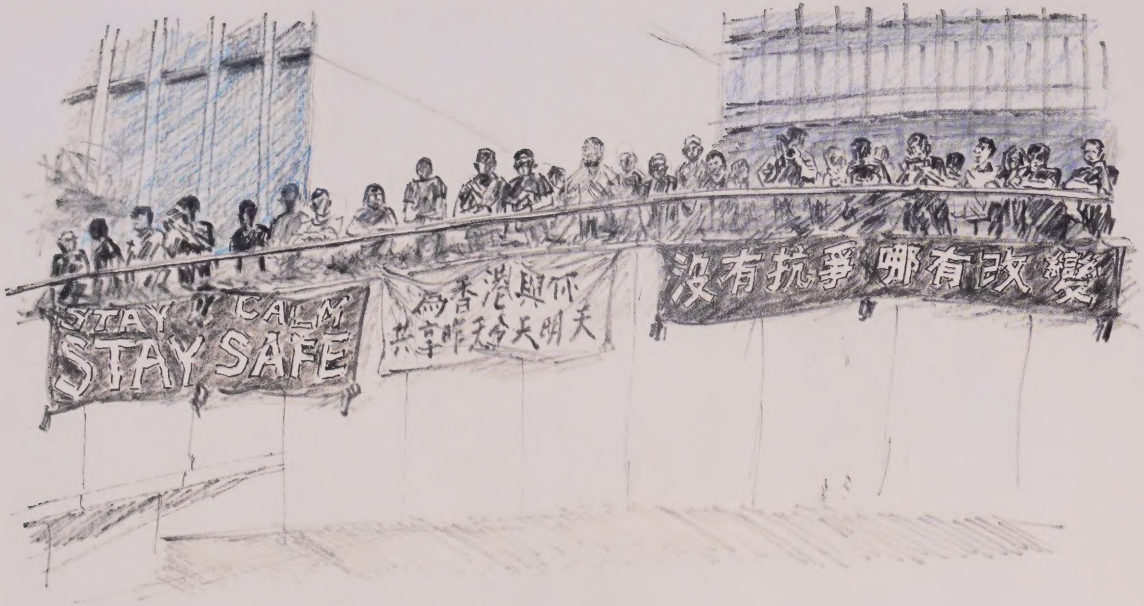
October 1, Admiralty.

The girl's placard reads: 還我真普選 (Give genuine universal suffrage back to me). The man's placard is an appeal to Xi Jinping, the president of the PRC.

Big Banners

October 1, Admiralty.

A big banner reads: 香港加油 (Hong Kong, fuel up). The next one reads: 公民提名 (Civil nomination). Another one reads: 沒有抗爭，哪有改變 (Without struggle... will changes come?)



More Banners

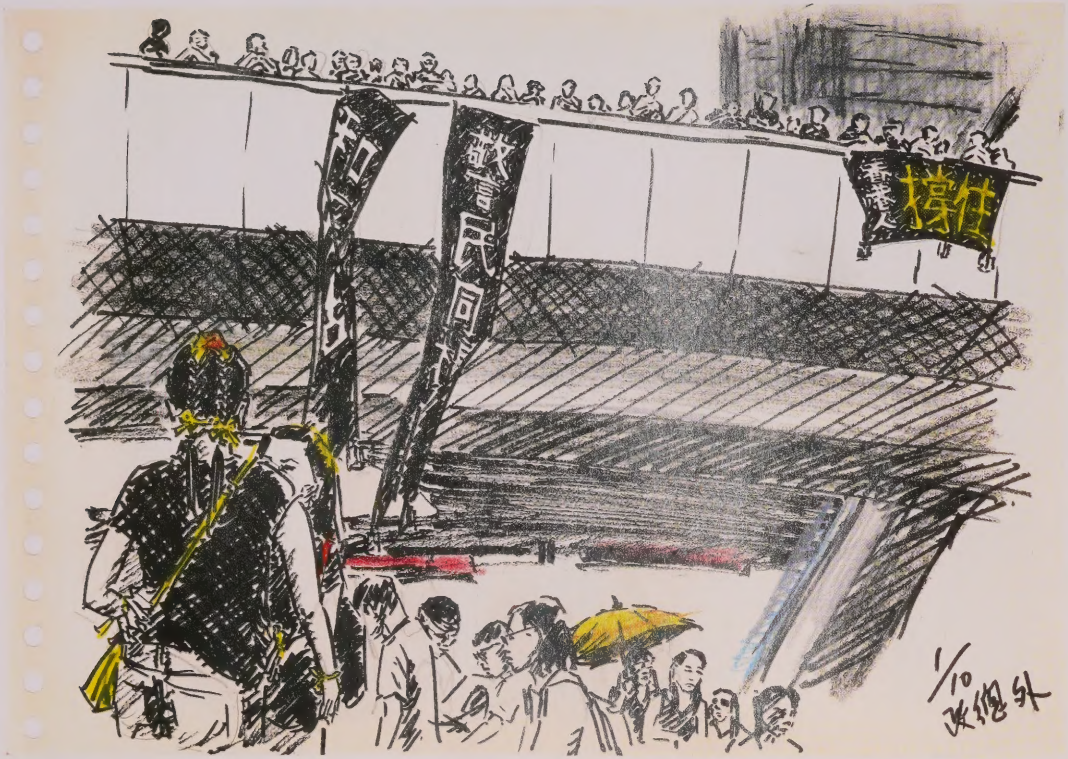
October 1, Admiralty.

A black one reads: Stay calm. Stay safe. The next one reads: 為香港與你，共享昨天今天明天 (For Hong Kong and for you, enjoy yesterday, today and tomorrow.)

Rubbish

October 1, Admiralty.

Hong Kong's Chief Executive (CE), CY Leung, made himself a widely hated person. A banner I saw in Admiralty carried the words 太多垃圾 (too much rubbish) and a caricature of him. (Leung is dubbed 689 for the number of votes he got from the members of a small and biased selection committee.) The yellow one carries the words 抗命 (disobedience) and 民主 (democracy).



Yellow Ribbons

October 1, Admiralty.

Yellow came to be the colour associated with the Occupy movement. A girl with yellow ribbons in her hair showed up outside the Govt Hqs on October 1.

International Media

October 1, Admiralty.

News of Hong Kong's Occupy movement was widely reported by international media.

Locked Up

October 1, Govt Hqs.

The main entrance of the Government Offices was tightly locked up. A caricature of CY Leung was hung upside down.

In and Out

October 1, Govt Hqs.

Security guards were inside. Protesters were outside. [無篩選，要普選 .... (No pre-screening, universal suffrage...); 圍牆 (Wall); 開閘 (Open the gate)]

Self-Determination

October 1, Govt Hqs.

The reception of the Hong Kong Federation of Students outside the Govt Hqs. The backdrop reads: 命運自主 (Self-determination of our own fate.)

Step Down!

October 1, Govt Hqs.

A banner calling for action against the rule of the "dark regime" (黑政權) and demanding the Chief Executive (CY Leung) to step down (下台).

A Bill Board

October 1, Govt Hqs.

People wrote short messages and pasted them outside the Govt Hqs.

A Good Read!

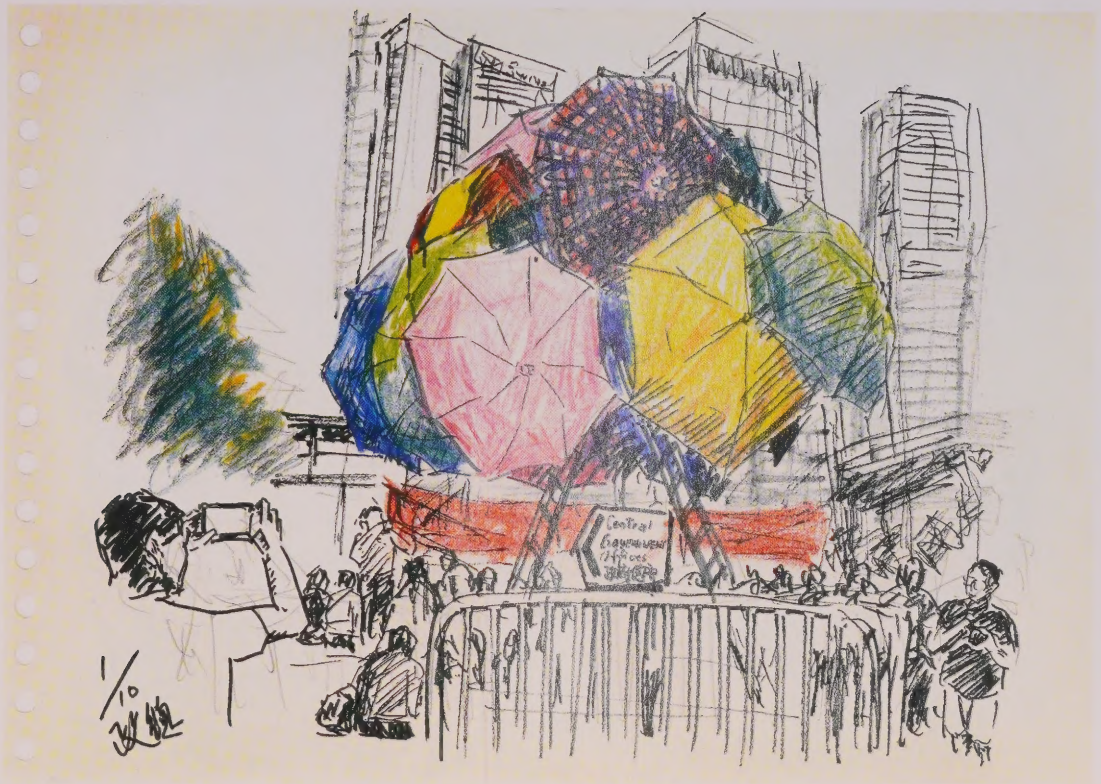
October 1, Govt Hqs.

The messages reflect the general sentiments of many Hongkongers.

Installation Art

October 1, Govt Hqs.

Large scale installation art in the occupied zone: an assemblage of umbrellas.



A Focus Spot

October 1, Govt Hqs.

The umbrella installation made the place a hot-spot.

Voicing Opinions

October 1, Govt Hqs.

Some disabled people joined the protest outside the Govt Hqs. 殘疾人士 (disabled people) 公民抗命 (civil disobedience).

Safeguard HK!

October 1, Govt Hqs.

守護香港，拒絕沉淪 (Safeguard Hong Kong. Refuse to sink into degeneration.)

Foreign Support

October 1, Admiralty.

Messages in different languages showing support for democracy in Hong Kong.

Young Advocates

October 1, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

A group of teens on the Harcourt Road flyover. One of the small placards reads: 自己香港自己救 ... (Self help for our own Hong Kong...)

More Placards

October 1, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Another group of teens, with some placards written in English. The one in Chinese reads: 香港要公平公正真普選 (Hong Kong needs genuine universal suffrage that's fair and in accordance with what's right.)

Nathan Road

October 2, Mongkok.

On the Kowloon side, protesters took up part of Nathan Road in Mongkok, a shopping area, and turned it into another occupied zone. The overhead banner reads: 和平集會，梁振英下台，我要真普選 (Peaceful assembly. Step down, CY Leung. I want genuine universal suffrage.)

Bus Blocked

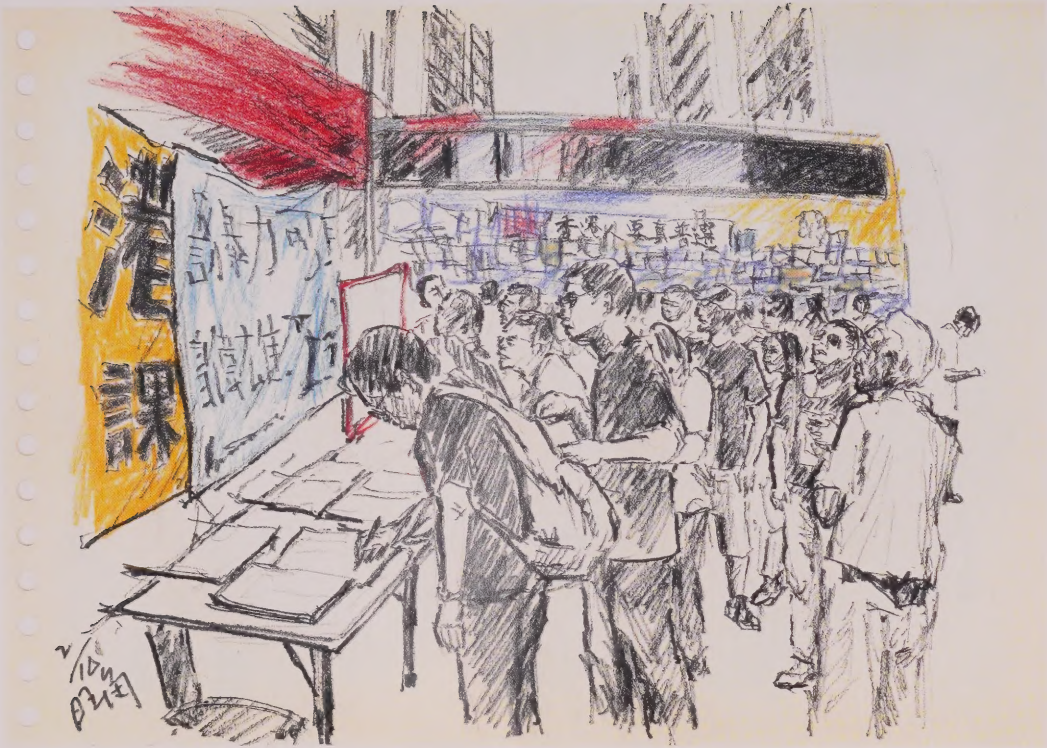
October 2, Mongkok.

A few buses were left on Nathan Road, in the occupied zone. People stuck sheets of paper with all sorts of messages on the abandoned buses.

Onlookers

October 2, Mongkok.

The abandoned buses attracted a lot of onlookers.



Condemning the Police

October 2, Mongkok.

People signing to condemn police violence.

Journalists at Work

October 2, Mongkok.

On top of an entrance to the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), a TV crew was at work.

Rubbish Bins

October 2, Mongkok.

People made use of the rubbish bins to fortify their barricades. They even labelled that part of the barricade the "689 collection point". [689: CY Leung]

The Defiant Students

October 2, Mongkok.

A black banner of the university students calling for defiance (抗命). Another one condemning the "rich and powerful slaves of the communist regime".

A Public Forum

October 2, Mongkok.

People attending a public forum on Nathan Road.

A Nervous Night

October 2, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Night was tense on October 2, the end of the public holiday after the National Day of the PRC. People and students were alert, guarding the occupied zone in Admiralty. The police were on the opposite side, guarding the area near the CE's office in the Govt Hqs.

Sleepless

October 2-3, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

I left Admiralty in the early hours of October 3. It appeared that many students there went through a sleepless night.

71 Connected

October 2-3, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Using smart-phones, the students were well connected with friends.

A Sea of Umbrellas

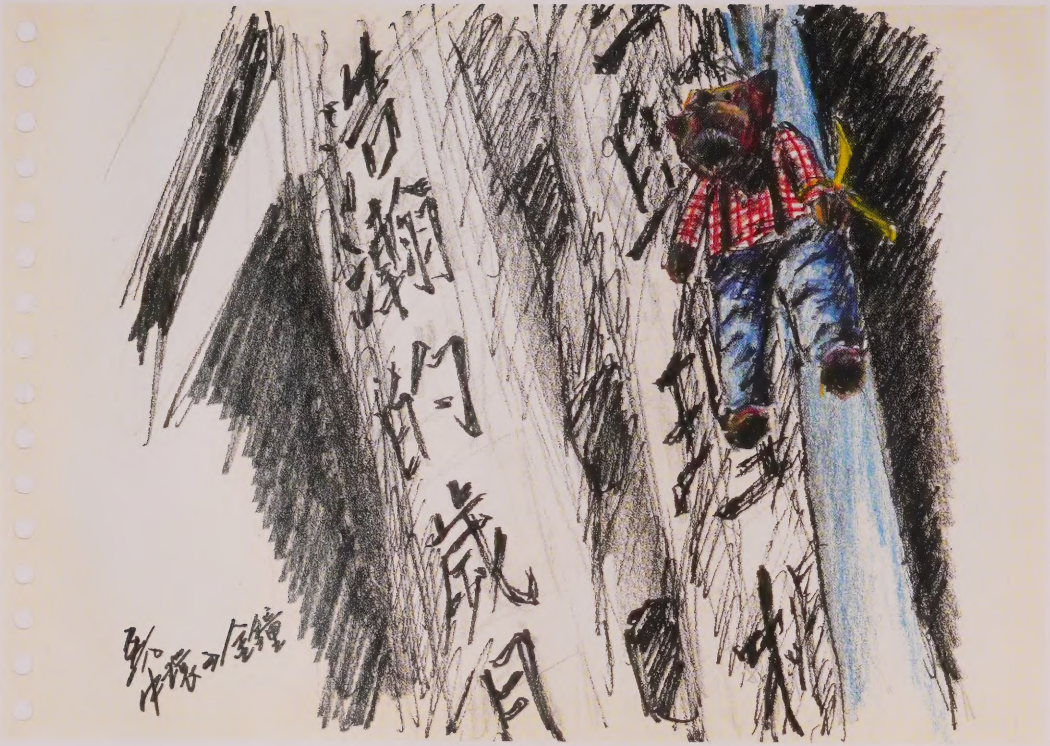
October 3, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

In the evening of October 3, thousands of people rallied in Admiralty, raising their umbrellas to show their determination to fight on.

Umbrellas Beneath

October 3, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Half way up a foot-bridge, I captured this scene with my camera and later turned it into a sketch in my studio.



Lufsig Hanged

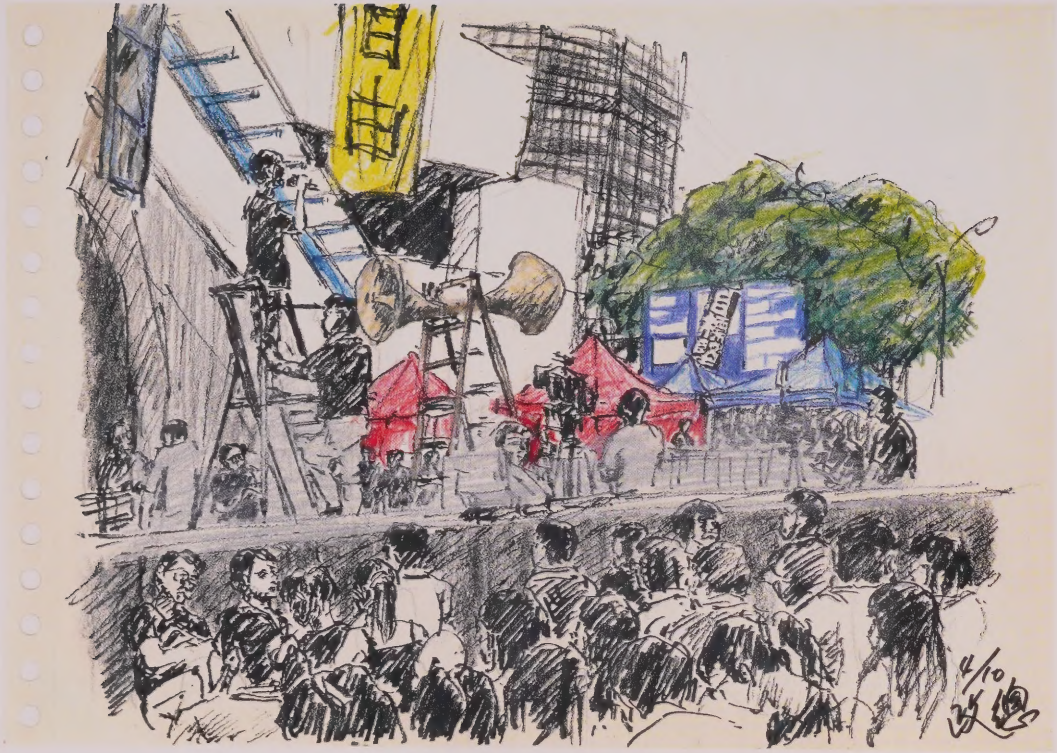
October 4, Admiralty.

The next day, on my way to the Govt Hqs, I saw an IKEA toy wolf, Lufsig, hanging from a foot-bridge over Harcourt Road. [CY Leung is also called a wolf.]

Two Protesters

October 4, Admiralty.

One of the boy's placards reads: 今天旁觀，沉默袖手，愧對良知 (Shame on your conscience for standing aside, watching and remaining silent today). The girl's placards read: 公民抗命，抗爭到底 (Civil disobedience; fight until the end).



The Big Stage

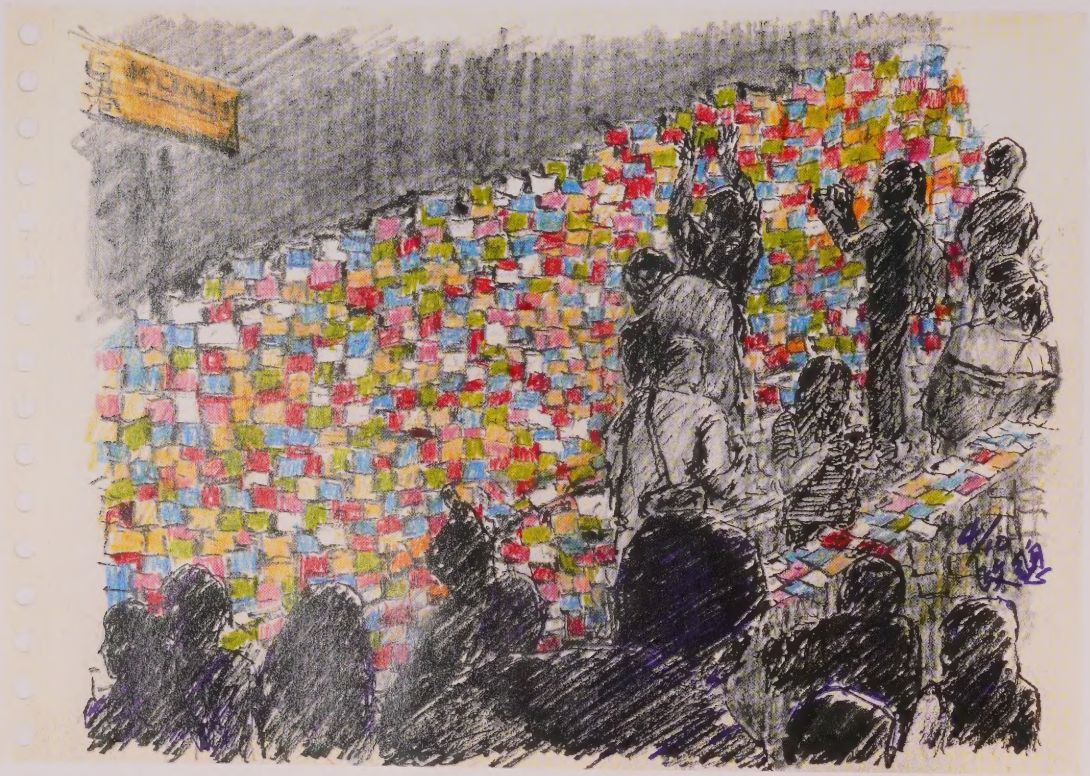
October 4, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

In the occupied zone, a big stage for public gatherings was set up under the twin footbridges over Harcourt Road. [自由：Freedom]

Tents

October 4, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Many colourful make-shift tents were erected in the occupied zone.



The Lennon Wall

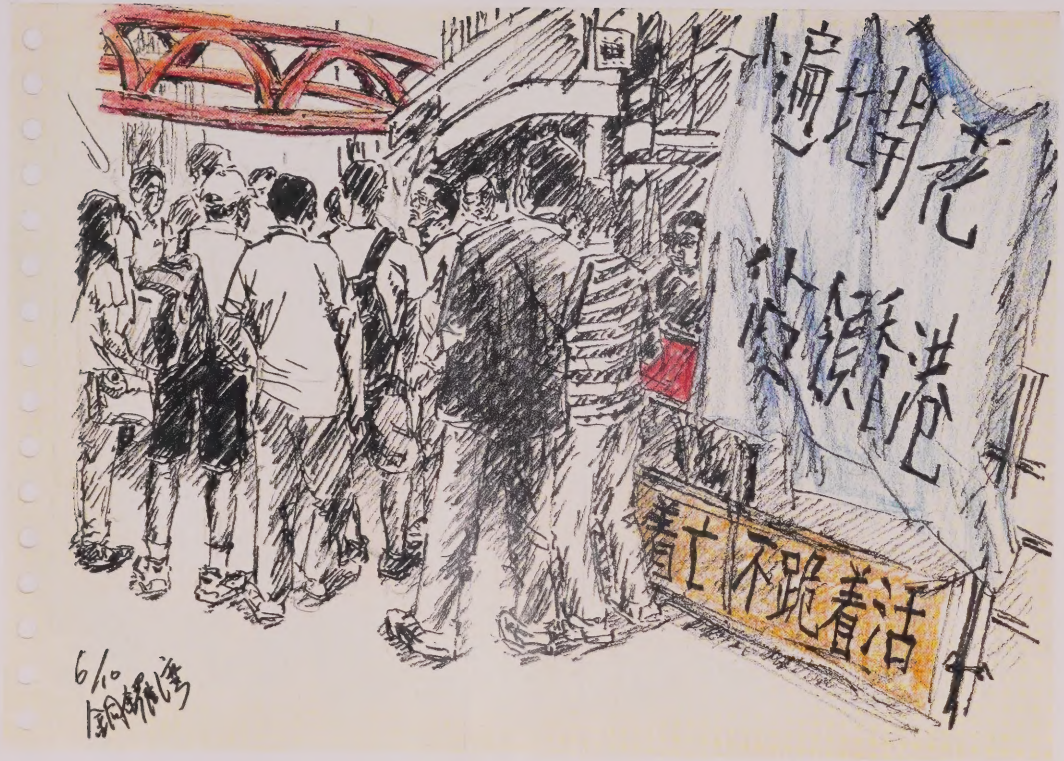
October 4, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

The wall along the stairs leading to the entrance of the Govt Hqs was used by people to place their written messages. It's called the Lennon Wall, after John Lennon for his relevant verse: "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one."

Another Nervous Night

October 5, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Nights spent at the west end of the Govt Hqs near the CE's office were always tense.



Another Street Forum

October 6, Causeway Bay.

Every time I visited the occupied zone in Causeway Bay, I found an active street forum. There were two banners. The lower one reads: 寧站着亡，不跪着活 (Rather die on our feet than live on our knees).

Students after School

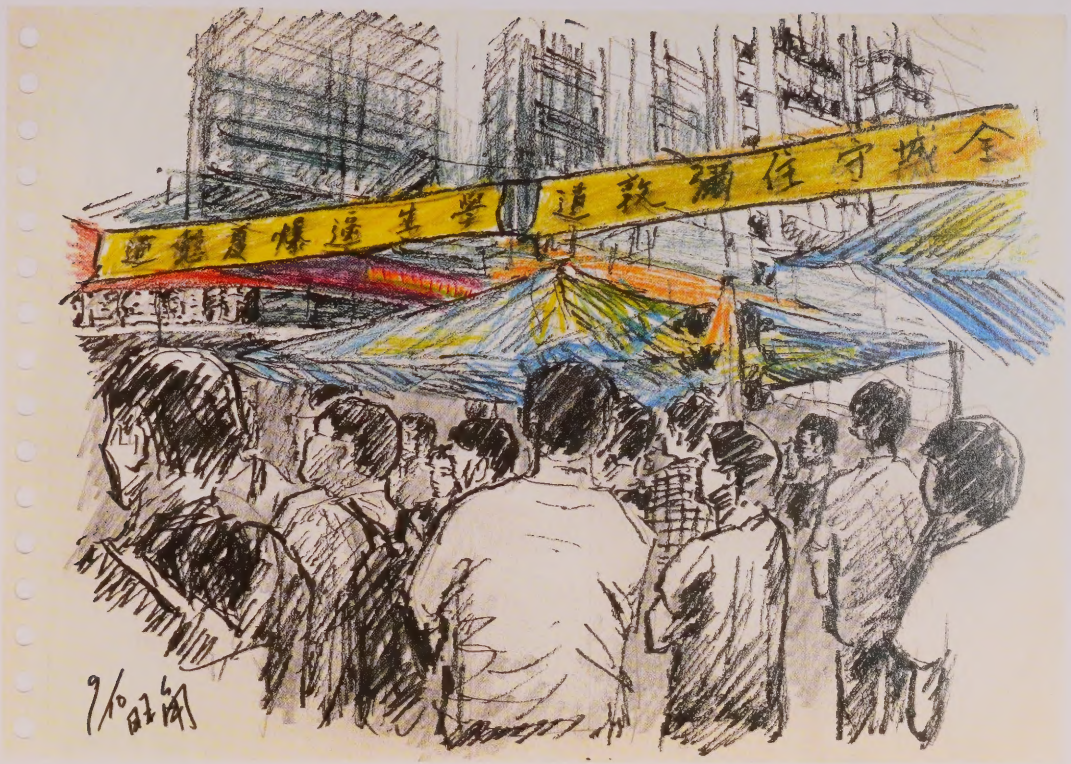
October 6, Causeway Bay.

A group of secondary school students in the occupied zone, nearly all in their school uniform.

A Tram Stop

October 6, Causeway Bay.

A tram stop on Hennessy Road was turned into a billboard.



Guard the Roads

October 9, Mongkok.

A large banner naming two occupied roads: 全城守住彌敦道，學生逼爆夏慤道 (All city folk, come and guard Nathan Road. Students, overwhelm Harcourt Road.)

Fight Hard!

October 9, Mongkok.

Words on the yellow umbrella: 香港頂硬上 ... 永不言敗 (Hongkongers, fight hard... Never say defeat.)

General Guan's Shrine

October 9, Mongkok.

General Guan was a deified war hero in Chinese history. He is worshipped not just by common folk, but also by police and triads in Hong Kong. In the occupied Mongkok zone, a shrine was put up for the legendary hero, with a notice saying that he would never give his blessings to the nasty police.

A Civic Forum

October 9, Mongkok.

Small forums like this Civil Forum (公民講場) were seen everywhere in the occupied zone.

A Festooned Barricade

October 9, Mongkok.

The barricades in Mongkok were usually festooned with all sorts of show pieces.

Big Screens

October 10, Admiralty.

After the second week, I frequented the occupied zones less often. In the evening of October 10, I saw a big screen erected in Admiralty.

Dim Light

October 10, Admiralty.

The light was too dim for the student to read books, but they could use mobile phones and other gadgets. [抱緊自由：embracing freedom]

Free Tuitions

October 13, Causeway Bay.

Many school teachers offered free tuition (義教) to help students in the occupied zone.

Law Students

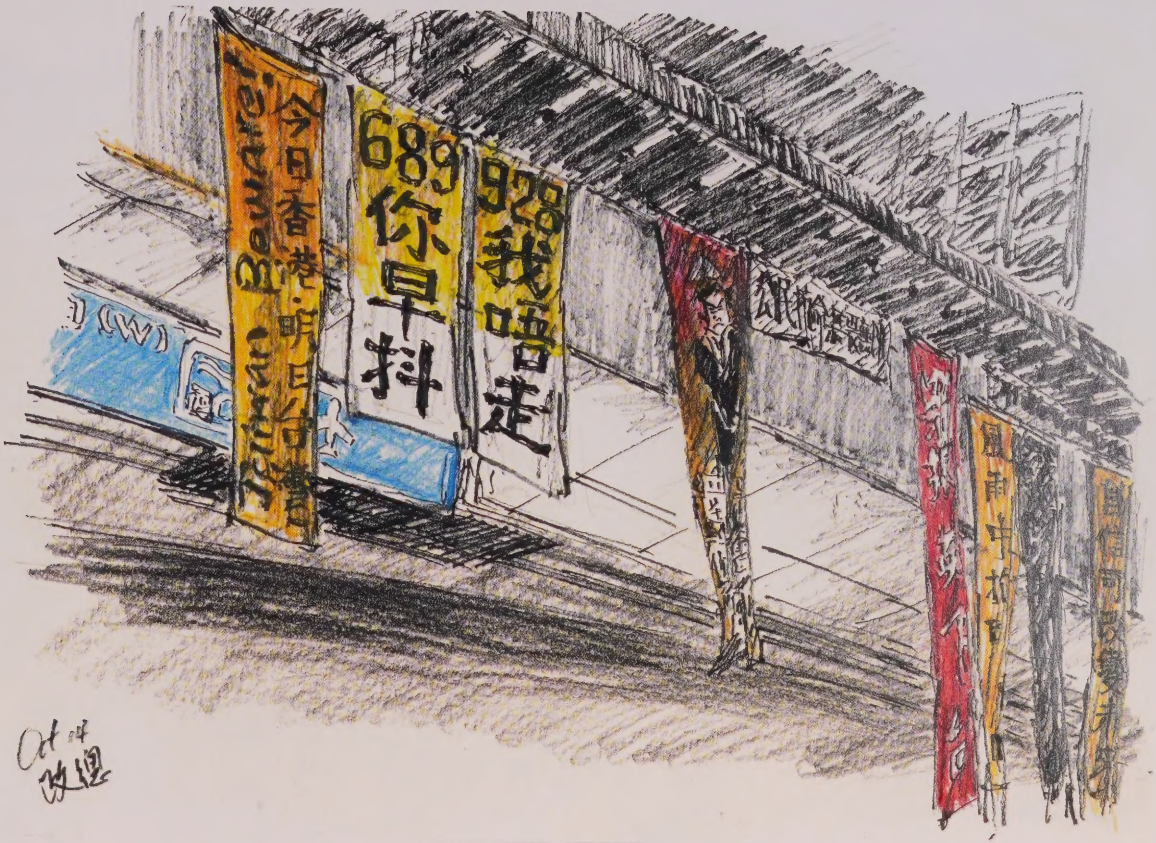
October 13, Causeway Bay.

A group of law students concerning themselves with the political reform of Hong Kong.

Another Umbrella Installation

October 13, Causeway Bay.

An umbrella-shaped installation constructed with dozens of umbrellas, spanning three lanes on Hennessy Road.



Big Banners

October 14, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Some big banners hanging over Harcourt Road. A notable couplet reads: 928 我唔走 ，689 你早抖 (I didn't go on September 28. You 689 should take an early rest.)[9.28: the day of tear gas; 689: CY Leung.] The red one reads: 梁振英下台 (CY Leung, step down!) New banners appeared almost daily.

The Road Shoulder

October 14, Admiralty.

The road shoulder at Admiralty became a sitting bench with a view facing the Big Stage.

Harcourt Village

October 14, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Hundreds of camps were erected on Harcourt Road. People began to call the place "Harcourt Village" (夏愨村), and the campers "villagers". [加油 : Fuel up. 最和平 : Most peaceful.]

Boosting Morale

October 14, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Words boosting morale next to the Federation of Students' chat-room (吹水台) in Harcourt Village: 加油 (Fuel up), 堅持 (Strive on).

The Study Corner

October 14, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

The newly-opened study corner behind the Big Stage on Harcourt Road. It's named 遮打自修室 . [遮 : Umbrella; 遮打 Chater was another HK-British government official, as Harcourt, whose name was used for an adjacent road.]

The East End

October 14, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

The barricades at the east end of the Admiralty occupied zone, set up and fortified with the help of some construction workers. This part of the zone was known as 光明磊落 (Bright open and not dirty) after protesters were reportedly badly beaten by the police in a dark corner.

A Group Discussion

October 14, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

A small group of students surrounded by umbrellas. [寧鳴而死，不默而生 (Rather speak out and die, than shut up and live on); 公民抗命 (Civil disobedience); 雨傘革命 (Umbrella Revolution).]

A Police Cordon

October 14, Admiralty.

The blockade of Queensway in Admiralty was cleared on October 14. Protesters gathered at several points facing Queensway to ward off the police. Late that night, clashes broke out on the other side of the occupied zone, near the harbourfront on Lung Wo Road.

The Stand-off

October 14, Admiralty.

The stand-off of the protesters and the police near Queensway.

The Red Line

October 14, Admiralty.

In front of the red line, the police were not in riot gear. Beyond that line, they were all equipped with helmets and other armour.

Dark Police!

October 15, Admiralty.

Clashes broke out on Lung Wo Road, the other side of the Govt Hqs, in the early hours of October 15. An arrested protester was taken to a dark corner where he was reportedly badly beaten by the police. Hours later, I visited the occupied zone. That evening, people rallied outside the Govt Hqs to condemn police violence. On the Big Stage, the words 黑警 (Dark police) were held upside down (to mean "down with") by the protesters.

A Street Artist

October 15, Admiralty.

Late that night, I found this artist in Harcourt Village still at work.

After the Clashes

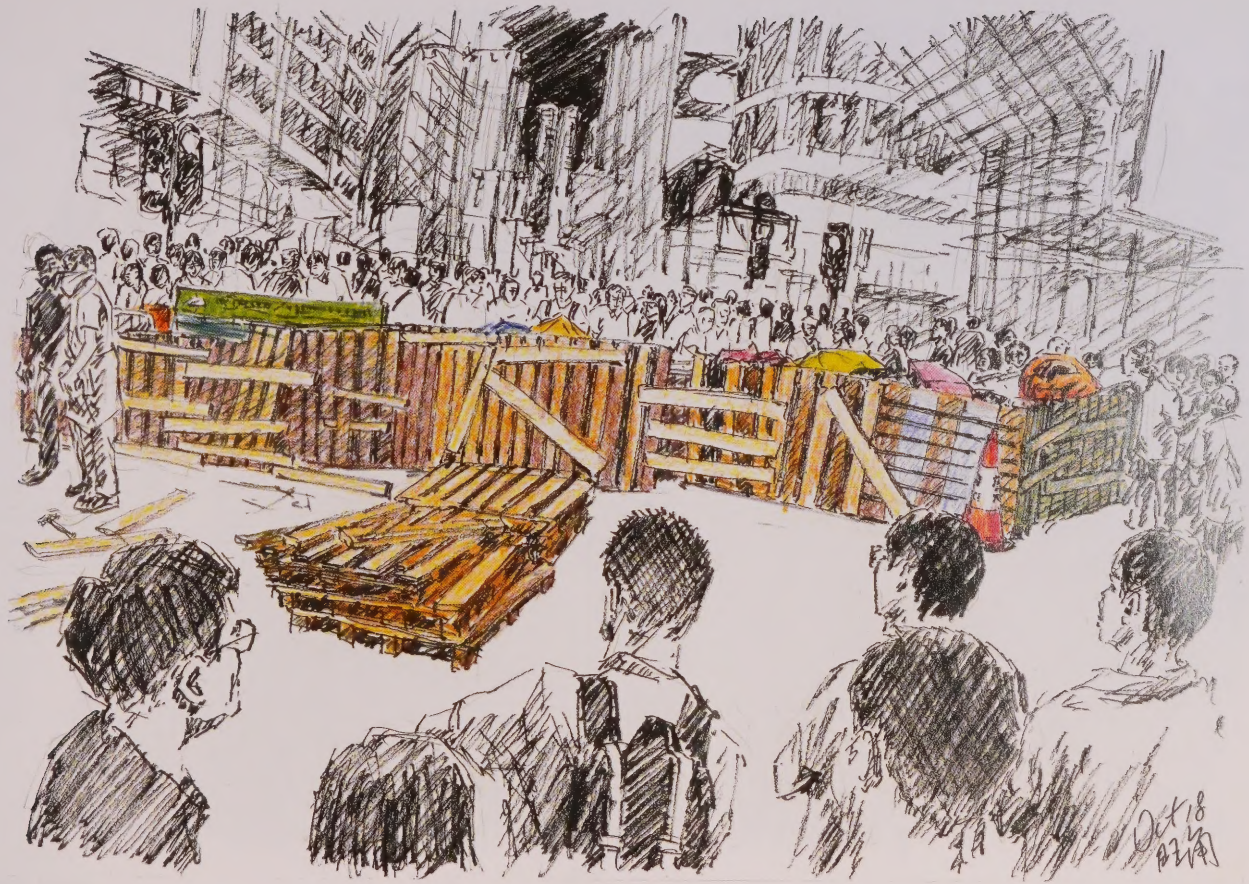
October 18, Mongkok.

Clashes also broke out in Mongkok on October 17, from late night to the next morning. Many protesters and onlookers were reportedly beaten up by the police. The police tried to clear Nathan Road, but the protesters reclaimed most of the occupied zone. I visited Mongkok after the clashes and saw hundreds of police on guard.

Hit Me Hard!

October 18, Mongkok.

During the night's clashes, the protesters only protected themselves with umbrellas: many were ruined. After the clashes, dozens of umbrellas with big photos of CY Leung were laid in front of the barricades facing the police. It's obviously mockery made by someone creative: "I'm CY Leung. Come and hit me hard with your batons."



The South End

October 18, Mongkok.

The barricades at the south end of the Nathan Road occupied zone.

The Umbrella Tomb

October 18, Mongkok.

Damaged umbrellas were placed in this "Umbrella tomb"(傘塚) after the clashes.

A Village View

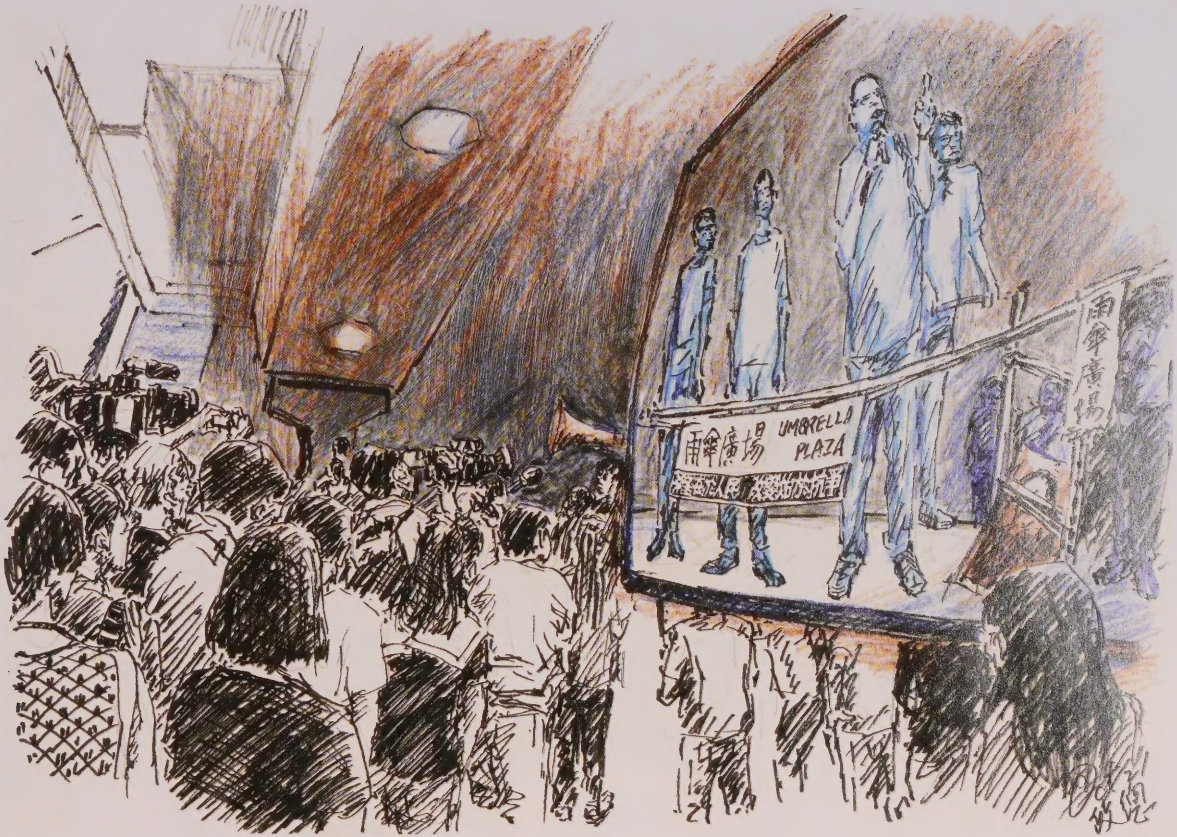
October 20, Admiralty.

A view of the "Harcourt Village" as seen from the footbridge over Harcourt Road. A count in the occupied zone showed the number of camps exceeding 2,000.

Villagers or Visitors

October 20, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Almost midnight. They must be "villagers". [... 重奪未來：Retake the future. 佔領中：Occupied.]



The Dialogue

October 21, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

The government representatives entered into a "dialogue" with the students on October 20. Broadcast live, it turned out to be a debate more than a dialogue, and the government side failed to get the upper hand. After the dialogue, people stayed on at Admiralty, waiting for the student representatives to return. The government agreed to have further dialogues, but reneged on the idea later.

Enforcing Law?

October 21, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

A closer look at the village from the footbridge above reveals the words: 執法為名，私刑為實 (Enforcing law in name; Private torturing in fact.)

Essential Supplies

October 22, Mongkok.

After the violent clashes, some supplies other than water became essential: umbrellas, helmets, floor mats...

Xi's Photo Modified

October 27, Causeway Bay.

A photograph of the Chinese president Xi Jinping holding an umbrella was announced an award winner in mainland China. It was subsequently modified in Hong Kong to show Xi holding a yellow umbrella. The modified version appeared promptly in all three occupied zones. This life-size banner was displayed on Hennessy Road, with words 一起舉傘，一起的撐 (Raise umbrellas together; give support together).

Co-existence

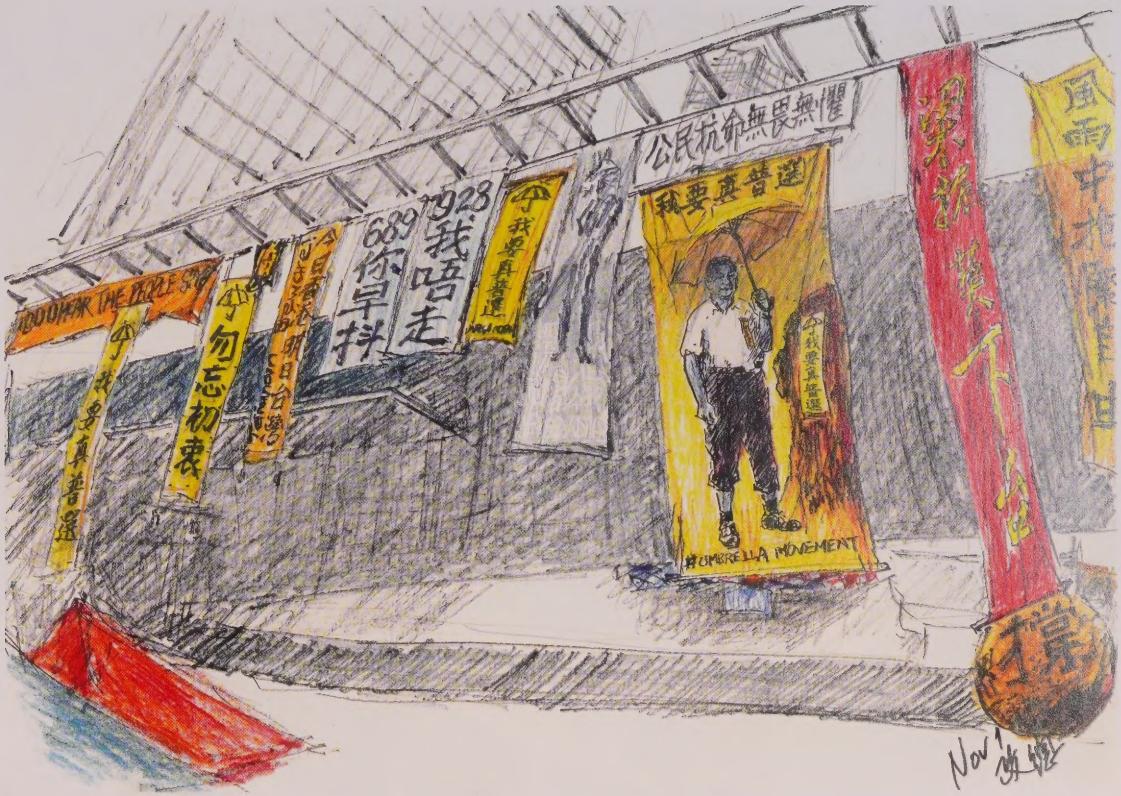
October 28, Mongkok.

Left: A site operated by some Christians. Right: The new shrine for General Guan (the older one was destroyed and cleared during the October 17-18 clashes).

Nine Hated Figures

October 28, Mongkok.

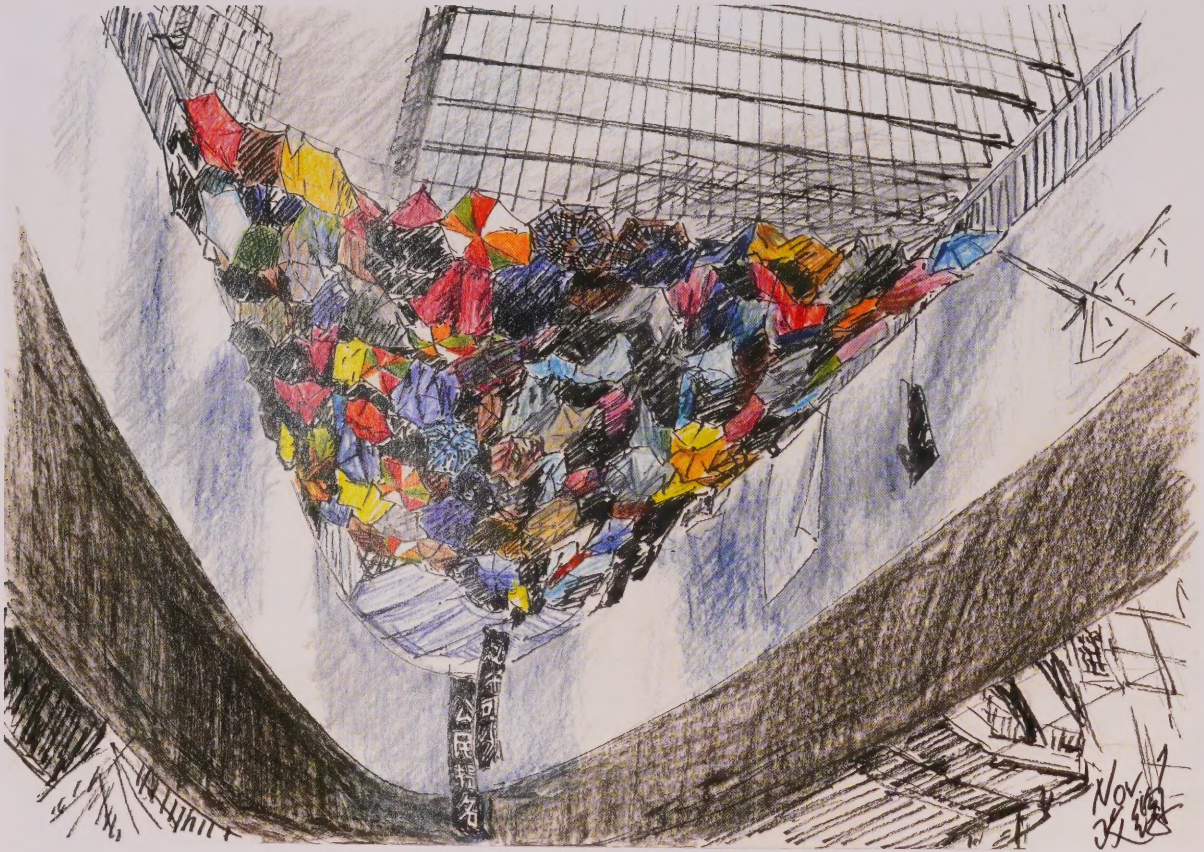
Words on the ground: 踩尒九條友，民主向前走 (Stamp on these nine fellows and democracy will move on.)



Xi in Admiralty

November 1, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Accompanying an overseas couple to Admiralty on October 28, I noticed that some new banners were hung there. A few days later, I went there during daytime to have a better look. The new ones were: (1) Xi and Lion Rock [On October 23, a team of rock climbers hung a 28-metre banner on the top of the Lion Rock. The huge banner, worded 我要真普選 (I want genuine universal suffrage), was removed by the government the next day, but its appearance on a famous 450-metre high peak, named the Lion Rock, made a most impressive image of the Umbrella Movement.] (2) 勿忘初衷 (Don't forget the original intention.) (3) 我要真普選 [banners echoing the one on the Lion Rock].



Umbrella Plaza

November 1, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

The area under the twin footbridge over Harcourt Road was named the Umbrella Plaza (雨傘廣場). An installation of umbrellas was hung above the plaza.

East Village

November 6, Mongkok.

Guarding the occupied zone in Mongkok, protesters set up camps and named different parts of the zone as “Upper Nathan Village”(彌敦上村), Lower Nathan Village”(彌敦下村), “Mongkok East Village”(旺角東村) and so on.

Different Looks

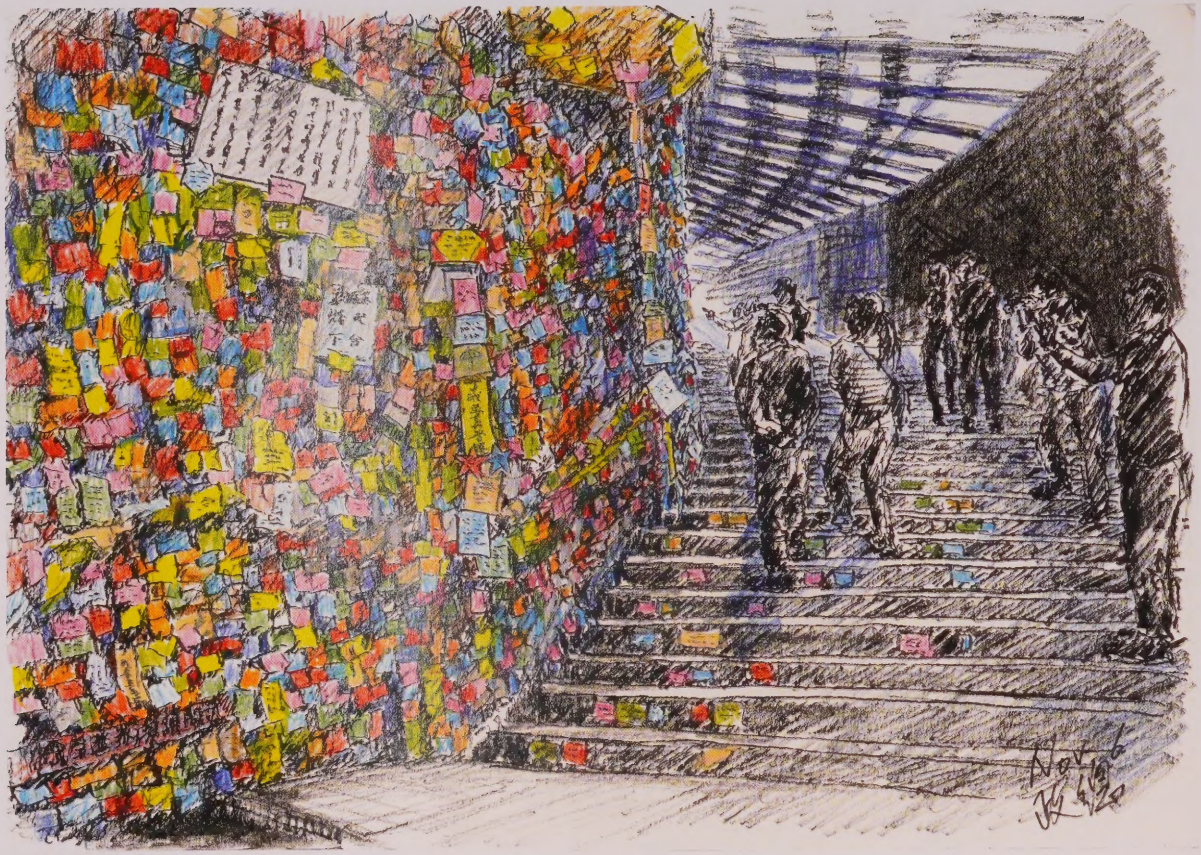
November 6, Mongkok.

Left: Xi's umbrella image appeared to have a different look in Mongkok. The modified photo was festooned, with a couplet right next to it – 外無將內無相沉迷權力出洋相，文又奸武又貪國號真名曰共貪 (No generals, no ministers, grabbing power and looking ridiculous. Officials are crooked, military officers are greedy, the real name of the country should be All Greedy.) Right: On the road side, Xi's caricatures by various cartoonists were displayed.

Words on the Ground

November 6, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

抗議暴力執惡法清場 (Protest against the use of violence and draconian laws to clear the zone.) 假普選浪費公帑；公民提名必不可少 ... (Fake universal suffrage is a waste of public money. Civil nomination shouldn't be left out...)



Words on the Wall

November 6, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

A most striking scene of the Lennon Wall, with countless messages posted there by protesters and visitors. If published, they would fill up volumes...

Street Calligraphers

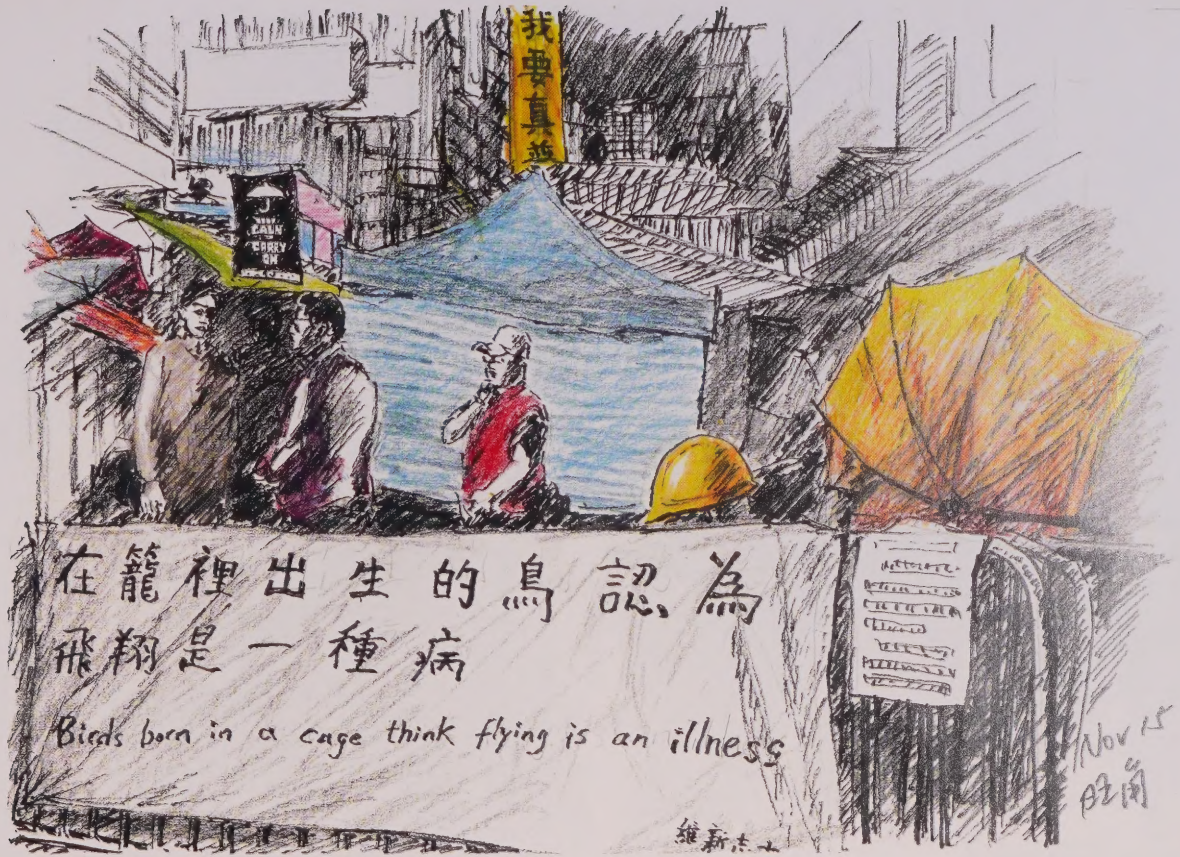
November 6 and 15, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Two calligraphers - Left: white chalk on the ground (提防暗角：Beware of dark corners). Right: brush and ink (我要真普選：I want genuine universal suffrage).

A Big Balloon

November 15, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

I first saw this big balloon next to the Big Stage two weeks ago, before making this sketch. It was sent to the occupied zone by people working in advertising.



A Quotable Quote

November 15, Mongkok.

I saw this memorable saying by Alejandro Jodorowsky in all three occupied zones. Somehow it looked particularly ironic on this banner placed in front of the barricades facing the police.

Grass-roots Heroes

November 15, Mongkok.

Left: a street artist working in the Mongkok occupied zone. [He was reportedly harassed by thugs or the police.] Right: the man showing up for several nights, confronting the police with an umbrella and a placard. [A poster behind him reads: 草根有英豪 (There are heroes from grass roots.)]

Xi Transformed

November 15, Mongkok.

In just a few days, most of Xi's umbrella images in Mongkok were utterly transformed and even removed to the rubbish dump.

First Aid

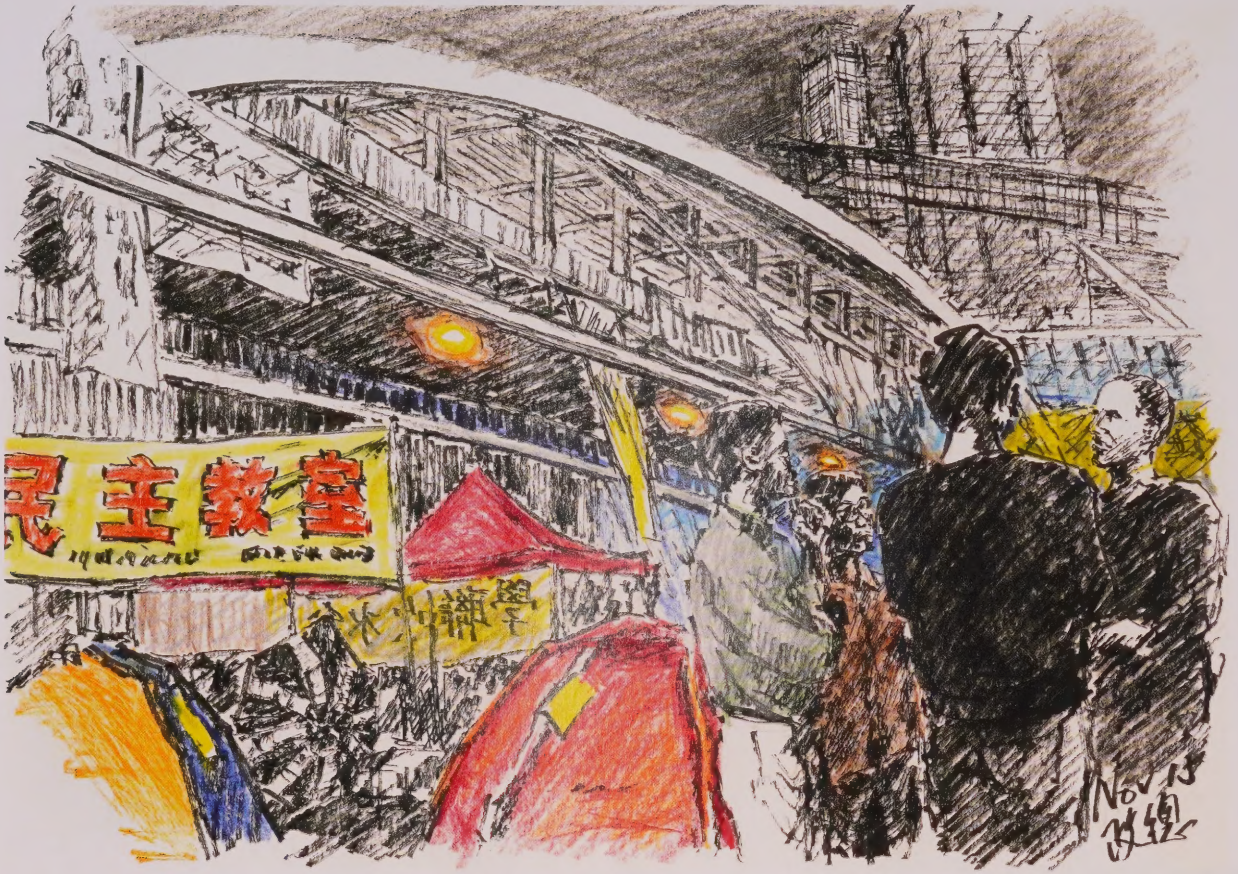
November 15, Mongkok.

A team of volunteers in the occupied zone.

A Righteous Demand

November 15, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

Hong Kong's legislature has been dominated by the Functional Constituencies, mostly formed by small 'circles' of powerful vested interest lobbies. There is a strong public outcry for the abolition of such constituencies.



A Foreign Visitor

November 15, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

A foreign visitor and his hosts/guides near the chat-room of the Federation of Students. (民主：Democracy; 教室：Classroom.)

The Art of Paper Folding

November 17, Causeway Bay.

During the Occupy movement, handicrafts with an umbrella motif began to flourish. In Causeway Bay, I saw a tent festooned with hundreds of Origami umbrellas.

A Street Exhibition

November 17, Causeway Bay.

An exhibition of photos and cartoons on Hennessy Road. The upper right piece shows two versions of the word umbrella in Chinese: the traditional version 傘 [with four people (人) under a cover] and the simplified version [with people replaced by two strokes]. The question is: how it can be raised without people?

Beware!

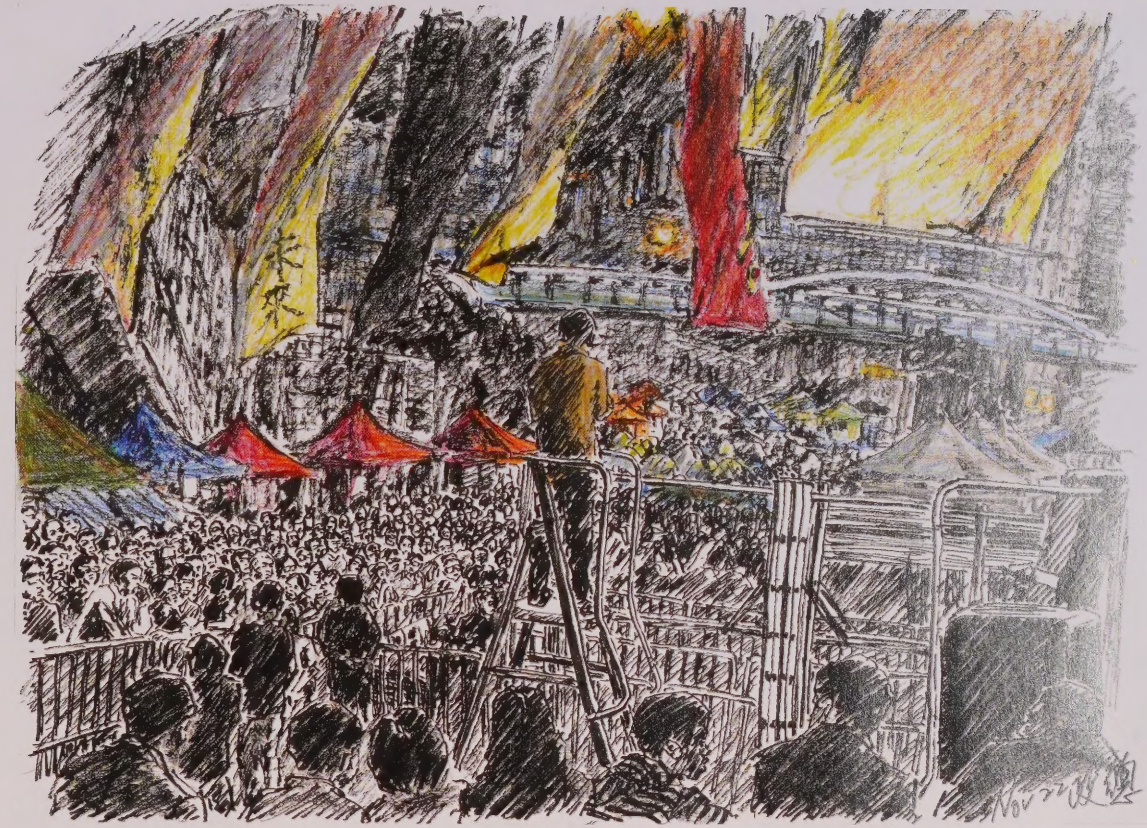
November 18, Mongkok.

As a court order had been issued to clear Nathan Road, people said the police would take action shortly after November 18. (警出沒注意：Beware of the appearance of the police.)

The Front Line

November 18, Mongkok.

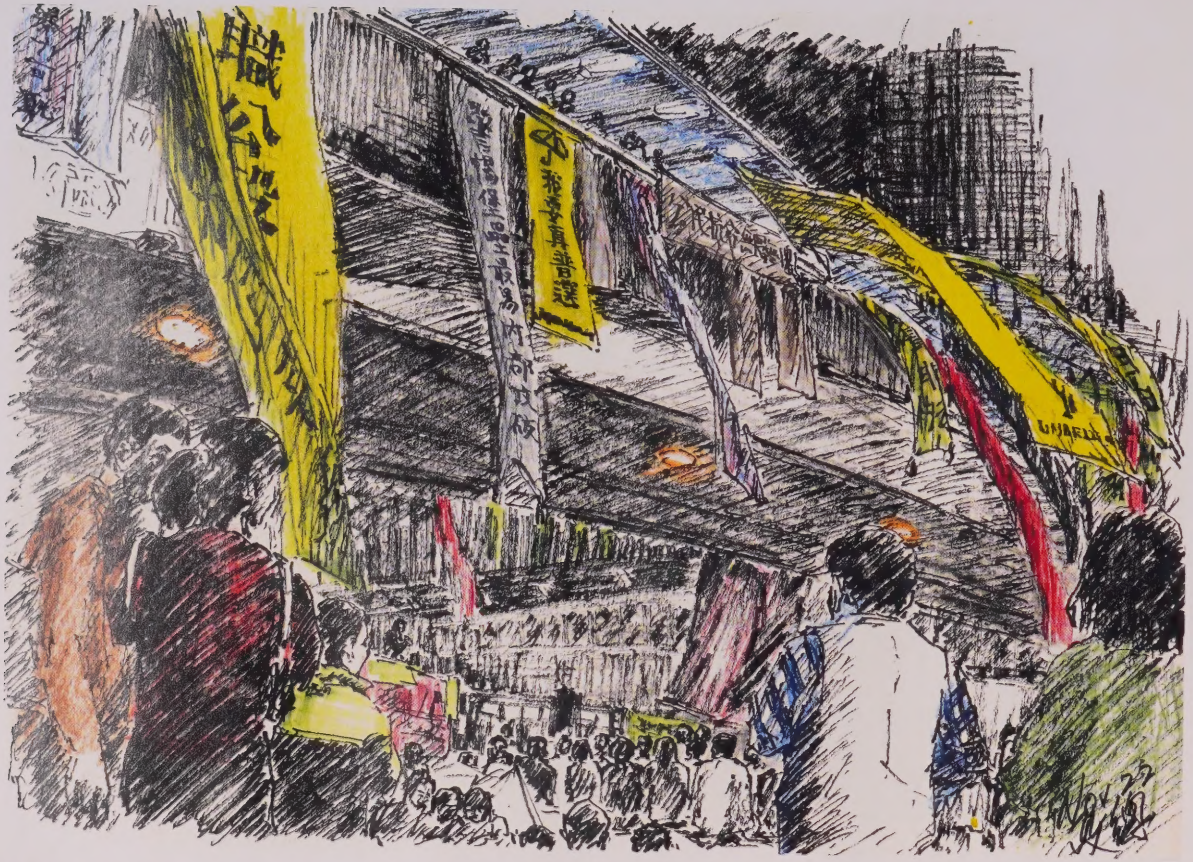
Protesters confronting the police at night. Though tense, a few nights passed without incident.



At the Back of the Big Stage

November 22, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

In Admiralty, several incidents had broken out since November 18. First, some protesters initiated conflict with the Big Stage. Then, another night, a group of people smashed the entrance of the Legislative Council, part of the government offices compound. I visited the zone on November 22, to hear the stories recounted by some activists.



Calls for Peace and Unity

November 22, Govt Hqs, Admiralty.

The message from the Big Stage was clear: peace and unity. There was a new banner: 警惕堡壘最易內部攻破 (Beware that the easiest way to collapse a fortress is to attack it from within.)

Relatively Calm

November 24, Causeway Bay.

Compared with Mongkok, Causeway Bay was quite calm.

Clearing Mongkok

November 25, Mongkok.

Equipped with a court order, a team of bailiffs came on November 25 to clear the occupied roads. On the same day, thousands of police marched in fully armed to take control of the whole district.

Two Loud-hailers

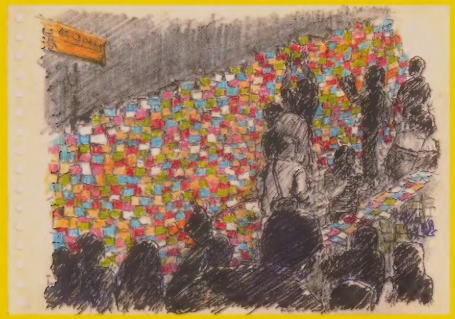
November 25, Mongkok.

It was the final stand-off before the police took action: a group of students with a loud-hailer on one side, the police opposite, surrounded by the Press and onlookers. Later on that day, police took action, charging crowds violently, harassing the Press at work and making arrests of protesters. The situation continued for several days and nights.

About the Artist/Author

Fong So is a journalist-turned artist. He had been an editor of a current affairs magazine for 18 years. His works have been exhibited in Hong Kong, Korea and the UK. With the traditional Chinese medium of brush and ink, the content and genre of his work obviously differ from those of traditional Chinese painting. He also works with woodcut prints. He lives and works in Hong Kong.

方蘇原為新聞工作者，曾任時事刊物編輯十八年。近年從事繪畫，作品曾在香港、韓國及英國展出。他作畫採用傳統國畫的筆墨和工具，但題材和風格明顯地有異於傳統。繪畫之外，他也製作木刻版畫。



UMBRELLA SKETCHES

A first hand impression of the HK Umbrella Movement 2014

This book is a collection of **139 sketches** of **the Occupy movement.** They are raw images of what the artist saw before and on **the day of tear gas**, and later on, in **the three occupied zones**.

By the time this book went to press, the Occupy movement was still running. Fong So had thought of doing a more complete book of sketches in a later date, but was advised that he shouldn't wait: “Do it now! And a supplement later.”...

Fong So is a journalist-turned artist, he had been an editor of a current affairs magazine for 18 years. His works have been exhibited in Hong Kong, Korea and the UK. With the traditional Chinese medium of brush and ink, the content and genre of his work obviously differ from those of traditional Chinese painting. He also works with woodcut prints. He lives and works in Hong Kong.

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